

cont  
031  
6, 2001, which claims priority to application number 09/671,534 filed September 27, 2000, which is a division of Serial No. 09/314,441 filed May, 19, 1999, now U.S. Patent No. 6,353,105, which is a division of Serial No. 08/893,921 filed July 11, 1997, now U.S. Patent No. 5,948,933, and is a continuation in part of Serial No. 08/552,584 filed November 3, 1995, now U.S. Patent No. 6,171,576.--

---

#### REMARKS

In the above application, claims 1-6 (renumbered 22-27) are pending and stand rejected. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejections in light of the above amendments and following discussion.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is entitled "VERSIONS WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE."

A petition for an extension of time of two (2) months for responding to the outstanding Office Action and the appropriate fee is enclosed herewith.

Claims 1, 2 and 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by Kuhar (U.S. Patent no. 6,358,492). In order to expedite examination of this case, Applicants have amended the specification to claim priority to earlier filed applications. Thus, this application is a continuation in part of application number 09/875,523, filed June 6, 2001, which claims priority to application number 09/671,534, filed September 27, 2000, which is a division of Serial No. 09/314,441, filed May, 19, 1999, now U.S. Patent No. 6,353,105, which is a division of Serial No. 08/893,921 filed July 11, 1997, now U.S. Patent No. 5,948,933, and is a continuation in part of Serial No. 08/552,584 filed November 3, 1995, now U.S. Patent No. 6,171,576.

Thus, the present application has a priority date that precedes that of Kuhar.

Claims 1-6 also stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Clarke (U.S. Patent no. 3,813,404), Kuhar (U.S. patent no. 5,496, 953), Davies (U.S. Patent no. 6,008,227 and U. S. patent no. 5,760,055) in view of Kuhar (U. S. Patent no. 6,358,492). In order to expedite examination of this case, Applicants have amended the specification as indicated above. This amendment obviates the rejection over Kuhar.

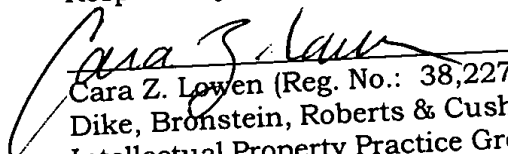
In view of the above amendments, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance. An early reconsideration and notice of allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner wish to discuss the above amendment made herein, the undersigned attorney would appreciate the opportunity to do so. Thus the Examiner is hereby invited to call the undersigned, collect at the number shown below.

Date: October 21, 2002

BOS2\_316075.1

Respectfully submitted,

  
Cara Z. Lowen (Reg. No.: 38,227)  
Dike, Bronstein, Roberts & Cushman  
Intellectual Property Practice Group of  
EDWARDS & ANGELL, LLP  
P.O. Box 9169  
Boston, MA 02209  
(617) 439-4444

USSN 09/975,586  
Meltzer, et al.  
Page 4

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE.

Please amend the above application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

After the title of the invention, please replace the paragraph submitted in the Preliminary Amendment with the following paragraph

--This is a continuation application of application number 09/568, 106 filed May 10, 2000, which is a continuation of provisional application 60/133,761 filed May 12, 1999, and is a continuation in part of application number 09/875,523 filed June 6, 2001, which claims priority to application number 09/671,534 filed September 27, 2000, which is a division of Serial No. 09/314,441 filed May, 19, 1999, now U.S. Patent No. 6,353,105, which is a division of Serial No. 08/893,921 filed July 11, 1997, now U.S. Patent No. 5,948,933, and is a continuation in part of Serial No. 08/552,584 filed November 3, 1995, now U.S. Patent No. 6,171,576.--